

Parshat Beshalach

- Pharaoh let the people go and God took them out (not the short/easy way)
- They took Yosef's bones
- God led them out in the form of a pillar of clouds during the day, and at night a pillar of fire. These pillars never left the people
- After the Jews left, Pharaoh's heart was hardened and ordered his men and chariots (600 to be exact) to go after them
- When the Jews saw the Egyptians chasing after them, they got really scared and cried out to God. (Did you just take us out of Egypt to kill us?)
- God told Moshe to hold his arm over the sea to split it.
- Moshe did it and the sea split and they made their way through the dry ground in between the walls of the sea.
- The Egyptians were chasing after them and God told Moshe to hold his arm over the sea and the walls will crash down onto them.
- None of the Egyptians remained
- When the Jews saw the miraculous doings of God, they feared him and their faith was restored.
- They began to sing songs and celebrate
- In the desert the people suffer thirst and hunger, and repeatedly complain to Moshe and Aaron.
- G-d miraculously sweetens the bitter waters of Marah, and later has Moshe bring water from a rock by hitting it with his staff. He causes manna to rain down before dawn each morning, and quails to appear in the Jew's camp each evening.
- The children of Israel are instructed to gather a double portion of manna on Friday, as there won't be any on Shabbat.
- Some disobey and go to gather manna on the seventh day, but find nothing.
- In Rephidim, the people are attacked by the Amalekim, who are defeated by Moshe's prayers and an army raised by Yehoshua

Rashi on 15:20 (France, 1040-1105)

ותקח מרים הנביאה. היכן נתנבאה? כשהיתה אחות אהרן, קודם שנולד משה, אמרה עתידה אמי שתלד בן וכו' כדאיתא בסוטה. (דף י"ב). ד"א — אחות אהרן, לפי שמסר נפשו עליה כשנצטרעה בקראת על שמו:

AND MIRIAM THE PROPHETESS TOOK — But where had she prophesied? When she was THE SISTER OF AARON alone — before Moses was born she said, “My mother will at some time bear a son who will deliver Israel etc.” Another explanation of אחות אהרן, the sister of Aaron: because he jeopardised his life for her by entreating on her behalf and so possibly incurring God’s displeasure when she was stricken with leprosy, she is called by his name

I found this commentary to be very interesting as it talks about Miriam who seemed to be irrelevant the majority of this story yet is still extremely important. I also felt that it was well worded and easy to understand.



The Splitting of the Sea by Yoram Raanan (1953-present)

Yoram Raanan, probably the greatest artist of his time, is an American visual artist who created this beautiful work of art, depicting the splitting of the Yam Suf. I chose this work of art because, I personally like the abstract element of Yoram Raanan's work because it's unique compared to other artists. I feel as though his work perfectly depicts the miraculous scene from this week's parsha as well as one of the most iconic moments in Jewish history. Yoram Raanan's interpretation of this great moment in our history is beautifully portrayed with his color choice as well as placement.



Pharaoh's Army Engulfed by the Red Sea (1900 painting by Frederick Arthur Bridgman)

Frederick Arthur Bridgman (November 10, 1847 – January 13, 1928) was born in Alabama to a physician. He made his first trip to North Africa (Egypt) between 1872-1874 in which he created several sketches. After looking into this artist a little more I discovered that he was an orientalist. Orientalism is a term used by art historians and literary and cultural studies scholars for the imitation or depiction of aspects in the Eastern world. These depictions are usually done by writers, designers, and artists from the West. Honestly I really enjoy this picture very much because it's a different view of the Parsha. Also, because it's a more realistic interpretation, I found that it was much easier to understand the intensity of this moment.